

**WESTERN STATES SEISMIC POLICY COUNCIL
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Grand Sierra Resort
Reno, Nevada
October 3, 2007**

MINUTES

Present:

*+Leighton Ah Cook, Hawaii State Civil Defense
*Rick Allis, Utah Geological Survey
James Bela, Oregon Earthquake Awareness
*Maiclaire Bolton, British Columbia Provincial Emergency Program
*Bob Carey, Utah Division of Homeland Security
*Ken Cooley, California Seismic Safety Commission
Craig dePolo, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
*+David Freeborn, New Mexico Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
+Terri Garside, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Patricia Gavelda, Colorado Division of Emergency Management
+Jim Goltz, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
*+Roger Hansen, Alaska Seismic Hazard Safety Commission
Werner K. Hellmer, Clark County Development Services
Larry Hultengren, DHS/FEMA
*David Jackson, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
Ed Laatsch, DHS/FEMA
Bill Leith, U.S. Geological Survey
*John Madden, Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
*Rick Martin, Nevada Division of Emergency Management
*+++Vince Matthews, Colorado Geological Survey
*Pete McDonough, Utah Seismic Safety Commission
Brent A. Nichols, Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
Rebecca Ossa, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
*++John Parrish, California Geological Survey
*William Phillips, Idaho Geological Survey
*Jonathan Price, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Mark W. Roberts, Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
+Paul Spengler, Lewis & Clark County (Montana) Disaster and Emergency Services
Patti Sutch, Western States Seismic Policy Council
Mike Tong, DHS/FEMA
*+Maillian Uphaus, Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division
*Yumei Wang, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
*+Jay Wilson, Oregon Emergency Management

***WSSPC Member**

+Proxy for WSSPC Member

Call to Order and Introductions – Rick Allis

Rick Allis called the meeting to order and all present introduced themselves.

Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum – Patti Sutch

Of the 38 WSSPC member agencies, 31 representatives were present. A quorum is 20.

Approval of Annual Business Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2006 – Rick Allis

MOTION TO APPROVE: David Jackson

SECOND: John Madden

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

Executive Director Report – Patti Sutch

The WSSPC website now has an Earthquake Resources page linked from the home page that has state earthquake publications listed.

The last Newsletter printed was Winter 2007. We will be preparing an electronic newsletter twice a year and an Annual Report, which will include State reports.

A Directory of members and the WSSPC database was prepared and made available at the conference with the registration materials.

There will be an announcement soon soliciting nominations for National Awards in Excellence to be given at the National Earthquake Conference in April.

Financial

The FEMA Semi-Annual Report for the second half of MOD 001 of the Cooperative Agreement was sent to FEMA and included in the meeting materials.

The WSSPC income and expense statement from December 2006 through August 2007 shows expenses of \$161,087. Income in this period was \$182,589 on the accrual basis.

MOD 001 of the FEMA Cooperative Agreement (FEMA Grant 2006) has been billed through June. Preliminary assessment of July expenses shows the need for accrual of \$7476.92 to close out the grant. MOD 002 started in August (FEMA Grant 2007).

The \$10,000 USGS grant for the conference was used to pay for the field trip, pre-conference publicity, and printing of the Program Guide. To date \$7,983.14 has been spent.

The program developed for the 2008 National Earthquake Conference is provided with the conference materials. It was developed by the Program Committee led by Patti with the help of many others – including Jim Goltz, Bob Carey and Maiclaire Bolton.

The WSSPC Annual Business Meeting in 2008 is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22 from 7-9 p.m. The Board requested the committee meetings and Board meeting on Monday April 21 and the Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday at 5 pm. Patti will check if rooms are available.

National Earthquake Program Managers Meeting – Bob Carey

The information exchange was held in Tennessee covering topics of and reports from NEHRP agencies, Eastern Tennessee seismic zone, pre-disaster mitigation, 2006 Kiholo Bay Earthquake, catastrophic planning for a New Madrid earthquake, and a presentation by the Centers for Disease Control. CUSEC held regional meetings on the last day.

The next national earthquake program managers meeting will be at the 2008 National Earthquake Conference April 22, 2008 in Seattle.

Board of Directors' Nominations – Rick Allis

Directors Dan McGowan, Ken Murphy, John Parrish, and Henry Renteria were nominated for another term from 2007-2009. Rick Allis asked for nominations from the floor, and there being none, Allis asked for a voice vote to approve the nominated Directors.

VOTE TO APPROVE THE NOMINATED DIRECTORS FOR A TWO YEAR TERM: Unanimously approved.

Policy Recommendations – Rick Allis

Rick Allis summarized the history of policy recommendations from the purple insert in the Conference Program Guide. PR 04-6 and PR 04-7 were recommended by the Board to be deleted. John Parrish described the user-friendly explanations that the USGS will be adding to their National Seismic Hazards Maps; therefore, there is not a need for PR 04-7 to be re-adopted at this time.

Policy Recommendations 07-1 & 07-2

Minor modification recommended by the Tsunami Committee: Assessment: 4)
“Communities being designated as a NOAA/NWS TsunamiReady community.”

VOTE TO APPROVE PR 07-1 & 07-2: Unanimously in favor.

Discussion - James Bela – Lincoln County School District (Oregon), in their Award in Excellence program, brought up the issue of the need for assembly areas after a tsunami. John Parrish responded that the policy recommendation is about communication and notification. Jay Wilson commented that it would be appropriate to consider that with the 2005 policy recommendation (PR 05-1) to be updated next year.

VOTE AGAIN TO APPROVE PR 07-1 & PR 07-2: Unanimously in favor.

PR 07-3

Bill Lund suggested the addition of “and the press”.

Discussion – James Bela suggested instead “and the media”.

VOTE TO ADOPT PR 07-3 WITH BELA’S CHANGES: Unanimously in favor.

PR 07-4

Discussion was deferred until Mike Mahoney and Ron Lynn could join the meeting.

PR 07-5

Bill Lund recommended the addition of new language “add slip rates (SR) and other seismic-hazard parameters with related uncertainties for active faults.” (And delete original language.).

Discussion – James Bela suggested “slip rates and design parameters.”

VOTE TO ADOPT PR 07-5 (WITH LUND’S LANGUAGE): Unanimously in favor.

PR 07-06

Data archiving is an important issue and needs to be addressed. Jim Goltz thought the policy recommendation was restrictive to the built environment and suggested changing the third line to... the performance of the “natural, built, and socio-economic environment”.

John Parrish suggested making a second policy recommendation, but Jon Price thought it may be confusing to add a second one.

The final suggested wording for the policy recommendation sentence is “archiving of essential data related to natural and socio-economic earthquake effects and the performance of the built environment.”

The Board will re-write the background section at a later time to conform to the broader scope.

David Freeborn asked what is considered “essential”. Jon Price suggested defining the term in the background section.

MOTION: To approve Policy Recommendation 07-6 as amended (David Freeborn).

SECOND: Jon Price.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

Rick Weiland and Mike Armstrong of the International Code Council (ICC) stopped by and were introduced. The next ICC meetings will be: Minnesota (2008), Baltimore (2009), and 2010 in Phoenix or Seattle. They invited WSSPC to participate with them again.

2008 Policy Recommendations – Rick Allis

Rick reviewed the three policy recommendations that will be potentially renewed in 2008. The policy recommendations will be circulated before the next Board meeting January 15, 2008. Any revisions must be submitted to Patti by January 1.

PR 05-1 is assigned to the Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Committee.

PR 05-2 is assigned to the Basin & Range Province Committee.

PR 05-3 Jon Price suggested that the Board look at this policy recommendation.

Ron Lynn and Mike Mahoney joined the meeting.

Engineering, Construction and Building Codes Committee - Ron Lynn

The draft Executive Order is being worked on.

A new draft policy recommendation on unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings is ready for consideration in 2008. It recommends that states inventory their URM.

PR07-4: New second sentence is recommended: "Further, WSSPC discourages modifications or amendments that would weaken the code or its required inspections."

MOTION: To adopt Policy Recommendation 07-4 as revised (Ron Lynn)

SECOND: Mike Mahoney.

Discussion – James Bela – Oregon can weaken the requirements. However, since the code requirements are set by the International Code Council, it is not a WSSPC issue.

Ken Cooley asked the reason for adding inspections instead of enforcement? Ron Lynn replied that the inspections are specified in the code, whereas the enforcement is up to individual jurisdictions.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

DHS/FEMA Report - Ed Laatsch

New employees Mike Tong and Larry Hultengren (WSSPC Project Officer) were introduced. Five people are now at headquarters in the Earthquake Program.

As a percentage of the total budget, the NEHRP budget is trending downward at FEMA.

FEMA is committed to continue to support the consortia at historic levels.

Of the Pre-Disaster mitigation programs: 20% are earthquake programs; these have a higher percentage of the funding than other programs.

Earthquake Program Activities – FEMA Mitigation Directorate is trying to increase visibility of Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG) within the Preparedness Directorate.

NETAP (National Earthquake Technical Assistance Program) training is available in URM training and residential and hospital retrofits. To obtain training, states should work with FEMA regional earthquake program managers.

Program Activity 6 (Execution of the National Response Plan following an Earthquake) calls for a working operational disaster plan that will backfill regional people to continue to maintain program visibility during a disaster.

The federal budget is on a continuing resolution at least until November.

FEMA has contracted with Safe America Foundation for an earthquake awareness campaign that includes focus groups, TV ads, etc.

A number of NEHRP Workshops are planned and the NEHRP Strategic Plan is being developed for release in March 2008.

FEMA is meeting with Rick Weiland and others from the International Code Council (ICC) on the issue of earthquake inspections.

U.S. Geological Survey Report – Bill Leith

USGS has launched the “Dare to Prepare Campaign” and is preparing for an earthquake exercise on the southern San Andreas fault.

A workshop on episodic tremor and slip in Cascadia and Japan was coordinated between USGS and others in Vancouver by Joan Gomberg and Jim Dieterich.

Woody Savage of the USGS is coordinating with John Parrish and Tony Shakal of the California Geological Survey on a project underway creating the National Center for Engineering Strong Motion Data (<http://www.strongmotioncenter.org>).

The SAFOAD (San Andreas Fault Observatory at Depth) project drilled through the San Andreas fault and the drill hole is closing up as the fault creeps. Monitoring continues.

ShakeMaps can now be produced within 9 seconds at UC Berkeley.

The Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS) is rated by the Department of the Interior as No. 1 out of 60 projects, which gave the USGS impetus to request additional funding. Strong motion instruments in Hawaii were upgraded. USGS_ NOAA project.

PAGER (Prompt Assessment of Global Earthquakes for Response) is going public October 1, 2007. Users can subscribe to notification of earthquakes with intensity VII or higher.

Dr. Walter J. Arabasz of the University of Utah Seismograph Stations received the John Wesley Powell Award from the U.S. Geological Survey for his outstanding scientific leadership in helping the public and elected officials understand and reduce the impact of earthquakes.

A search is underway for Pat Leahy's replacement for the position of Associate Director for Geology.

The budget is on hold with the continuing resolution. The President's proposed budget covers fixed costs; the House added \$4 Million to the President's budget. The USGS wants to support the 1868 Hayward Earthquake Alliance and the National Earthquake Conference.

WSSPC Committee Reports –

Basin & Range Province Committee – Bill Lund, Chair

A Working Group is in process chaired by Craig dePolo. Initial meetings were held in Reno November 19 and 20, 2007. Additional working groups in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming with the same sort of review. A Rural summit was held in 1994; there is support from Nevada, Idaho New Mexico and others for another. The Committee plans to update the model clearinghouse plan (PR 07-3).

Engineering, Construction and Building Codes Committee – Werner Hellmer for Ron Lynn, Chair

There were no additions to Ron Lynn's earlier presentation.

Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Committee – John Parrish, Chair

Policy Recommendations 07-1 and 07-2 recommend early warning systems along the coastline in conjunction with the DART buoy system and how it can be supplemented in the Cascadia subduction zone. GPS systems were put in by British Columbia, so those recommendations are being incorporated.

New Business –

Rick thanked Patti Sutch for organizing the conference. Patti thanked Jon Price and Terri Garside, and especially Craig dePolo for his vision in planning the program.

Jim Bela asked for awards winners to be integrated into the program. He also noted that the Bylaws do not include the states who are members. Rick Allis agreed that would be a good idea.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Jon Price).

NO SECOND.

VOTE: Unanimously in favor.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Sutch
Secretary